

CLAIMS

1. Method for producing oligosaccharides, comprising the steps of:

- a) selecting a gene which codes for an enzyme which is capable of converting sucrose into an oligosaccharide;
- 5 b) linking the gene to suitable transcription-initiation and transcription-termination signals in order to provide an expression construct;
- c) transforming a suitable plant cell with the expression construct;
- 10 d) regenerating a transgenic plant from the transformed plant cell;
- e) culturing the transgenic plant under conditions enabling the expression and activity of the enzyme; and
- f) isolating the oligosaccharides from the transgenic
15 plant.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the gene which codes for an enzyme which is capable of converting sucrose into an oligosaccharide is of microbial origin.

- 20 3. Method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the gene which codes for an enzyme which is capable of converting sucrose into an oligosaccharide is the ftf gene of Streptococcus mutans or a mutated version thereof.

4. Method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that
25 the gene which codes for an enzyme which is capable of converting sucrose into an oligosaccharide is the SacB gene of Bacillus subtilis or a mutated version thereof.

5. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
30 the gene which codes for an enzyme which is capable of converting sucrose into an oligosaccharide is of vegetable origin.

6. Method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that
35 the gene which codes for an enzyme which is capable of converting sucrose into an oligosaccharide is the sucrose-sucrose-fructosyltransferase (SST) gene of the onion or a mutated version thereof.